

Draft Individual Review Form

Proposal number: 2001-I210-1

Short Proposal Title: Discover the Flyway II

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Yes, the educational objectives of the proposed project and the two hypotheses being tested are clearly stated and well thought out. The fulfillment of the objectives relates directly to the hypotheses that would be tested, which is whether a comprehensive hands-on wetland educational teacher training program can enable teachers to more effectively convey wetlands concepts and whether providing these types of experiences, public awareness will increase with regard to both positive and negative impacts to these wetlands and environmental issues surrounding them.

1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?

The conceptual model is very thorough in that it addresses all aspects and elements of the program and provides feedback and opportunities for adaptive management at many stages in the development and implementation of the program. The model takes an ecosystem approach in that it covers many age groups and utilizes many different techniques for educating people and groups. The model also points to areas of need and directs resources of the program towards those areas.

1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?

Yes, the approach is comprehensive, appears to be well designed and fits into the community and schools on many levels. The approach, if implemented as it is designed, would be able to address the goals as stated. The project is based on a two year project- Discover the Flyway I, which was funded by CalFed and will continue to be funded by other sources. I have reviewed the progress reports for that first phase, as well as the scope and tasks for this second phase, and the project overall appears to be multi-faceted, well- organized and highly effective.

1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?

This is a proposal for a full-scale implementation project for three years. It builds on an earlier Discover the Flyway program, that was a two year program funded by CalFed, (which will continue to be funded under other sources). This request is made due to the success of that project and the desire in the community and schools for continuing this training. I would not consider this to be a pilot or demonstration program.

1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?

The potential for students and teachers to carry this information through life with them and to use this experience in future decision making capacities is always an important part of outdoor education. The adults who are being trained and educated are certainly at a place in their lives where they vote and work for environmental causes, so that is a positive benefit. Direct influence on decision making bodies, such as legislators or local government, is not a part of this program.

2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?

The current program utilizes written evaluations and oral feedback as primary tools for assessing the current programs, and that that will continue with this second phase. Data is collected through these evaluations and used to increase program effectiveness. The project proposes to hire consultant expertise to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the programs effectiveness. They will also collaborate with and be eligible for services from the Yolo County Office of Education program which provides monitoring and assessment services including training to community programs.

2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?

As stated above, the project proposes to hire consultant expertise to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the programs' effectiveness. They will also collaborate and be eligible for services from the Yolo County Office of Education program which provides monitoring and assessment services including training to community programs. At this point in the proposal, those tasks have been delegated to be designed by the consultants, so there isn't much to evaluate.

3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?

Yes, the proposed work already has a track record of being implementable and is feasible.

4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?

Yes, I have reviewed the team's credentials and they have documented their track record of ten years doing similar projects, so I would have to state that they seem well qualified to complete this task. I have reviewed the progress report for Discover the Flyway I and they seem to have had the capabilities to accomplish their objectives in their first CalFed grant.

Miscellaneous comments

Overall Evaluation

Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating

I would rate this project as Excellent-the project description and the organizational approach to teaching and learning are well thought out and have been trialed in the first phase of the project. The credentials of the Foundation are clearly documented. I believe that it is very difficult to educate people on the benefits of wetlands without some kind on inroads project such as this- wetlands are not like beaches and forests, where people generally tend to gravitate and recreate. We drive by them continually, yet the biodiversity and ecosystem function they provide remains for the most part a mystery.

Summary Rating

- ☐ Excellent- **Excellent**
- ☐ Very Good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor